

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 04369 111622Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00
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UNCLAS VIENNA 04369

USDOC

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN LICENSE REQUIREMENT FOR THE EXPORT OF
SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL

1. AUSTRIA PLANS TO INSTITUTE A LICENSE REQUIREMENT FOR THE EXPORTATION OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS USED IN DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. IN ITS MEETING OF APRIL 25, THE AUSTRIAN CABINET DECIDED TO SUBMIT A BILL TO THIS EFFECT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE EXPORT LICENSE REQUIREMENT FOR SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS IS TO BE INSTITUTED BY A NEW AMENDMENT OF THE FOREIGN TRADE LAW OF 1968. BESIDES MAKING EXPORT LICENSES MANDATORY FOR SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL, THE DRAFT AMENDMENT STIPULATES THAT SUCH PERMITS WILL BE ISSUED ONLY ON CONDITION THAT PROOF IS FURNISHED THAT EITHER PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR PROPER STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE IN AUSTRIA PURSUANT TO LEGAL PROVISIONS, OR THAT STORAGE ABROAD IS ASSURED.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION OF HOW AND WHERE
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AUSTRIA WILL DISPOSE OF SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS REMAINS OPEN, REPROCESSING OR STORAGE ABROAD MAY EVENTUALLY BE PART OF THE AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. BY REQUIRING LICENSING OF EXPORTATION OF SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS, THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT IS ESTABLISHING A CONTROL MECHANISM OVER THE COMMERCIAL POWER COMPANIES WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR STORAGE OF AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR WASTE. WOLF

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